REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a) and Claim Amendments

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,648,770 to Ross (hereinafter Ross).

Claims 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ross in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,377 to Westerlage et al. (hereinafter Westerlage).

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13, and 21. The amendment is supported by, inter alia, paragraph [0013] of the specification. No new matter has been entered. Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 14, and 22 in view of the amendments to the independent claims.

Claim 1 recites:

a third data structure that identifies respective tasks to be performed by said second party at said plurality of sites;
a fourth data structure that identifies dependencies associated with tasks identified in said third data structure that require said third party to arrive at a common location with said second party;
an interface process for receiving navigational data that is indicative of locations of said second party and said third party;
a monitoring process that utilizes said navigational data and said first, third, and fourth data structures to estimate arrival times associated with said plurality of sites.

Claim 13 recites:

storing third data that identifies respective tasks to be performed by said second party at said plurality of sites;
storing fourth data that identifies dependencies associated with tasks identified in said third data that require said third party to arrive at a common location with said second party;
receiving navigational data that is indicative of locations of said second party and said third party;
estimating arrival times associated with said plurality of sites utilizing said navigational data and said first, third, and fourth data.

Claim 21 recites:

> means for determining amounts of time to be spent at said plurality of sites in reference to respective tasks to be performed by said second party;
> means for identifying dependencies associated with tasks identified by said means for determining that require said third party to arrive at a common location with said second party;
> means for estimating arrival times associated with said plurality of sites utilizing said data associated with said locations and said plurality of sites and in response to said means for determining and said means for identifying.

Ross is directed to a system for notifying a party of a pending delivery or pickup of an item. *See* Abstract of Ross. The system of Ross merely assumes that a single delivery vehicle proceeds from location to location in a linear manner without regard to any other consideration (except for traffic or other similar delays). *See* col. 4, lines 26-31. There is no teaching or suggestion that a task to be performed at a location may require multiple parties. Accordingly, Ross does not identify "dependencies" and use those dependencies to estimate arrival times.

Likewise, Westerlage assumes that a single delivery vehicle is expected to travel to a plurality of destinations. The system in Westerlage calculates the estimated arrival times for the plurality of destinations. *See* col. 9, lines 45-54. The arrival times are merely calculated using the distances between each destination and the progress of the delivery vehicle. *See* col. 10, lines 24-41. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that a task to be performed at a location may require multiple parties. Accordingly, Westerlage does not identify "dependencies" and use those dependencies to estimate arrival times.

Accordingly, the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 13, and 21. Independent claims 1, 13, and 21 are therefore allowable. The dependent claims are also allowable as being dependent from an allowable independent claim in addition to the novel and nonobvious limitations recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10015905-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 482708151US in an envelope addressed to: M/S Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: March 17, 2005

Typed Name: Gail L. Miller

Signature: *Gail L. Miller*

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Christopher S. L. Crawford
Reg. No. 51,586
Date: March 17, 2005
Telephone No. (214) 855-8378